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HOUSE BILL 1883

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives McCoy, Pearson, Eickmeyer, Upthegrove and Haigh

Read first time 02/09/2005. Referred to Committee on Select  
Committee on Hood Canal.

1 AN ACT Relating to collection and preservation of oral histories  
2 about Hood Canal; amending RCW 43.07.365; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 43.07 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration  
4 date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Hood Canal is  
7 a marine water of the state in significant peril. The legislature also  
8 finds that low dissolved oxygen concentrations have occurred in Hood  
9 Canal for many years and that these conditions have created a serious  
10 environmental health concern. The legislature further finds that  
11 substantial fish kills have occurred in Hood Canal in recent years, and  
12 scientists and others report significant changes in marine species  
13 behavior in Hood Canal.

14 (2) The legislature finds that the factors contributing to Hood  
15 Canal's low dissolved oxygen problems are complex and that  
16 investigation is needed to understand both the problem and its  
17 potential solutions. The legislature also finds that a historical  
18 perspective is important in understanding Hood Canal's problems. The  
19 legislature recognizes the tribal elders and other long-term residents

1 of the Hood Canal area are a great source of knowledge regarding the  
2 history of Hood Canal. The legislature finds these tribal elders and  
3 others may provide critical insight into the history, impacts, and  
4 potential causes of the low dissolved oxygen concentrations occurring  
5 in Hood Canal.

6 (3) The legislature intends to initiate a process for university  
7 students to interview tribal elders and others who have knowledge of  
8 the history of conditions along Hood Canal to collect information  
9 regarding the history and impacts of Hood Canal's low dissolved oxygen  
10 concentrations. The legislature further intends that these interviews  
11 and the information learned be preserved as part of the state's oral  
12 history program.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.07 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The secretary of state, with the assistance of the oral history  
16 advisory committee, shall administer and conduct a program to record  
17 and document oral histories of tribal elders of the tribes in the area  
18 surrounding Hood Canal and other long-term residents of the Hood Canal  
19 area who have similar knowledge of the history of the conditions along  
20 Hood Canal. The purpose of these interviews is to collect information  
21 and perspectives regarding the history of the conditions along Hood  
22 Canal, including but not limited to reports of fish kills, changes in  
23 marine species behavior, fishing and harvesting histories, and other  
24 conditions related to the environmental health of Hood Canal.

25 (2) The secretary of state shall contract with the state  
26 universities to have university students interview and record the oral  
27 histories specified in subsection (1) of this section. The tapes and  
28 tape transcripts shall be indexed and made available for research and  
29 reference through the state archives. The transcripts, together with  
30 current and historical photographs, may be published for distribution  
31 to libraries and for sale to the general public.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.07.365 and 2002 c 358 s 3 are each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the  
35 secretary of state may fund oral history activities through donations  
36 as provided in RCW 43.07.037. The activities may include, but not be

1 limited to, conducting interviews, preparing and indexing transcripts,  
2 publishing transcripts and photographs, and presenting displays and  
3 programs. Donations that do not meet the criteria of the oral history  
4 program may not be accepted. The secretary of state shall adopt rules  
5 necessary to implement this section.

6 (2) The secretary of state may fund the oral history activities  
7 specified in section 2 of this act through appropriations to the oral  
8 history, state library, and archives account.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires July 1, 2008.

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